

Message Text

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ALSO FOR DAO

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 135878 ACTION LONDON INFO ABU DHABI
ADDIS ABABA BANGKOK BEIRUT BLANTYRE CAIRO CANBERRA CAPE TOWN
COLOMBO DACCA DAR ES SALAAM DOHA THE HAGUE HONG KONG
ISLAMABAD JAKARTA JIDDA KABUL KARACHI KATHMANDU KHARTOUM
KUALA LUMPUR KUWAIT LISBON LOURENCO MARQUES LUSAKA MANAMA
MANILA MOGADISCIO MOSCOW MUSCAT NAIROBI NATO NEW DELHI
PARIS PEKING PORT LOUIS PRETORIA RANGOON SANA SINGAPORE
TANANARIVE TEHRAN TEL AVIV TOKYO USUN NEW YORK WELLINGTON
USCINCEUR CINCLANT CINCPAC CINCPACFLT CINCUSNAVEUR COMIDEASTFOR
DATED JUNE 11.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, UK, XO

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON DIEGO GARCIA

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD

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MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED

SERVICES COMMITTEE ON JUNE 10:

QUOTE: MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY FOR YOU OUR REASONS FOR PROPOSING AN AUGMENTATION OF FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. AS I HAVE INDICATED IN PREVIOUS APPEARANCES BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE AND ELSEWHERE, WE BELIEVE THIS PROJECT IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR OUR FORCES WHICH OPERATE PERIODICALLY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

SINCE MY LAST APPEARANCE HERE, THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1975 (PUBLIC LAW 93-552), WHICH AUTHORIZSD 18.1 MILLION DOLS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THESE FACILITIES, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS. IN

RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 613(A)(1) TF THAT BILL, THE PRESIDENT CERTIFIED TO THE CONGRESS ON MAY 12 THAT HE HAD EVALUATED ALL THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS REGARDING THE NEED FOR UNITED STATES FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA AND CONCLUDED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY NEGATIVE ACTION BY CONGRESS, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPPORT FACILITIES THIS FALL. AN ADDITIONAL 13.8 MILLION DOLS IN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS HAS BEEN REQUESTED IN THE FY 76 BUDGET.

AT THE PRESNT TIME WE HAVE A LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS STATION ON DIEGO GARCIA. THE PURPOSE OF THE NEQ CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE TO EXPAND THIS STATION TO INCLUDE CERTAIN SUPPORT FUNCTIONS BEYOND ITS PRESENT COMMUNICATIONS ROLE. THE PROPOSED EXPANSION WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

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-- THE RUNWAY WOULD BE LENGTHENED TO 12,000 FEET FROM ITS PRESENT 8,000 FEET TO PERMIT THE OPERATION OF LARGER CARGO AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS HIGH PERFORMANCE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT UNDER A VARIETY OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE TROPICAL CLIMATE;

-- THE FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY WOULD BE INCREASED FROM THE PRESENT 60,000 BARRELS OF AVIATION FUEL TO A TOTAL OF

380,000 BARRELS OF AVIATION FUEL AND 320,000 BARRELS OF FUEL OIL FOR SHIPS;

-- AN ANCHORAGE WOULD BE DREDGED IN THE SHALLOW CORAL LAGOON WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE THE SHIPS OF A CARRIER

TASK GROUP, AND A PIER WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE ABOUT 550 FEET OF BERTHING PRIMARILY FOR THE RAPID LOADING OR UNLOADING OF FUEL;

-- VARIOUS AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS WOULD INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PARKING APRONS, AN ARRESTING GEAR FOR EMERGENCY USE, AND LIMITED AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES;

-- ADDITIONAL QUARTERS FOR APPROXIMATELY 300 OFFICERS AND MEN WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED; AND

-- STORAGE, POWER, AND OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES WOULD BE EXPANDED PROPORTIONATE TO THE INTENDED SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.

THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 37.8 MILLION DOLS, TO BE CARRIED OUT BY SEABEE UNITS THROUGH FY 79. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 600 SEABEES ON THE ISLAND COMPLETING PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED WORK ON THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AND HARBOR, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED DURING THIS CALENDAR YEAR. THERE ARE ABOUT 430 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO OPERATE THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AND THE AIRSTRIP. WITH THE EXPANSION PROGRAM, THIS NUMBER WOULD RISE TO APPROXIMATELY 600.

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THE TOTAL COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS WE HAVE REQUESTED ON DIEGO GARCIA, INCLUDING THE SALARIES OF THE CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL, THEIR FOOD AND FUEL, THE REPLACEMENT COSTS OF EQUIPMENT USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, THE PROCUREMENT OF HARDWARE FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION, AND ALL OTHER OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS WOULD BE ABOUT 108 MILLION DOLS, OR ROUGHLY THE COST OF A SINGLE NAVY OILER. IN VIEW OF THE FLEXIBILITY WHICH THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION ON DIEGO GARCIA WILL OFFER TO OUR FORCES, AND THE OPERATIONAL ECONOMIES IT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE, WE FEEL THAT THIS IS A PRUDENT INVESTMENT.

OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IN REQUESTING THIS FACILITY IS TO PROVIDE SECURE ACCESS TO LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR OUR FORCES OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. FOR EXAMPLE, OUR NAVAL FORCES OPERATING THERE TODAY MUST RELY EITHER ON LOCAL SOURCES OF FUEL OR ELSE MUST BE REPLENISHED BY A CHAIN OF TANKERS STRETCHING OVER 4,000 MILES FROM U.S. FACILITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE ADDITIONAL FUEL STORAGE WE HAVE PROPOSED WOULD PERMIT A NORMAL CARRIER TASK GROUP TO OPERATE FOR ABOUT 30 DAYS INDEPENDENT OF OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY. THAT MARGIN OF TIME COULD SPELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ORDERLY RESUPPLY OF OUR

FORCES AND A HASTY IMPROVISATION WHICH COULD PLACE UNWIELDY DEMANDS ON OUR SUPPORT ASSETS IN OTHER AREAS. THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WHICH COULD BE PERFORMED ON SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT.

IN SHORT, THE PROPOSED FACILITY WOULD PROVIDE THE ASSURANCE OF U.S. CAPABILITY TO DEPLOY AND MAINTAIN FORCES IN AN AREA WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT OVER THE PAST DECADE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR NEARLY TWO CENTURIES THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS THE MILITARY PRESERVE OF GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH EXERCISED CONTROL OVER THE VITAL SEA LANES TO INDIA AND THE MANY OUTPOSTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. FROM THE EARLY

19TH CENTURY, BRITAIN OPPOSED CZARIST ATTEMPTS TO EXTEND RUSSIAN RULE INTO SOUTH ASIA, JUST AS IT LATER COOPERATED IN COUNTERING POSTWAR STALINIST EFFORTS IN AZERBAIJAN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTEND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

IN THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE 1960'S THE BRITISH WERE FORCED TO REORIENT THEIR PRIORITIES TOWARD EUROPE AND AWAY FROM ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT IS AN INTERESTING COINCIDENCE THAT 1968--THE YEAR THE BRITISH ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW--WAS ALSO THE YEAR WHEN THE USSR FIRST ESTABLISHED WHAT HAS NOW BECOME A PERMANENT NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE NORTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN.

WHILE THIS TRANSITION FROM BRITISH DOMINANCE TO A MORE DIFFUSE POWER STRUCTURE HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS, THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION HAVE BEEN GROWING. WE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON THE OIL WHICH IS CONSTANTLY MOVING IN TANKERS ALONG THE SEA LANES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND OUR ALLIES ARE EVEN MORE DEPENDENT. WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE STAKE IN THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THIS VERY LARGE BODY OF WATER WHERE HALF OF THE WORLD'S SEABORNE OIL IS IN TRANSIT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED AT THE STEADY GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE REGION. I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW BRIEFLY THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS BY WHICH THIS INCREASE OF SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE HAS DEVELOPED.

THE FIRST SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN IN 1968 WERE SMALL AND TENTATIVE IN NATURE. LACKING ANY SHORE FACILITIES, THE ORIGINAL CONTINGENTS OF SOVIET SHIPS WERE SATISFIED TO REMAIN MOSTLY QUIESCENT, SPENDING MOST

OF THEIR TIME AT ANCHORAGES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL BRIEF PORT VISITS TO BREAK WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A MONOTONOUS EXISTENCE. THIS CAUTIOUS PROBING OF UNFAMILIAR WATERS IS VERY REMINISCENT OF SOVIET INITIAL DEPLOYMENTS INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN SOME FIVE YEARS EARLIER.

WHEN THE SOVIET NAVY BEGAN TO DEPLOY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN IN 1963, FOLLOWING AN ABORTIVE EARLIER ATTEMPT TO
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INTRODUCE SUBMARINES INTO ALBANIA, THERE WERE VERY FEW PORTS OPEN TO THEM AND THEY SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME SITTING IDLY AT ANCHOR. BUT THE SOVIETS GREW MORE CONFIDENT WITH TIME AND WHEN EGYPT MADE PORT AND AIRFIELD FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THEM AFTER 1967, THEY WERE QUICK

TO INCREASE THE SCOPE AND INTENSITY OF THEIR OPERATIONS. BY THE TIME OF THE ARAB-ISRAEL WAR OF OCTOBER 1973, THEY WERE ABLE TO INTRODUCE AND SUSTAIN AN ARMADA OF MORE THAN NINETY SHIPS, INCLUDING THE MOST MODERN IN THEIR INVENTORY.

AS EARLY AS 1962, THE SOVIETS AGREED TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA IN CONSTRUCTING PORT FACILITIES IN BERBERA, A SMALL PORT OVERLOOKING THE ENTRANCE TO THE RED SEA. THE HARBOR WAS COMPLETED IN 1969, AND BY 1971 SIXTEEN SOVIET SHIPS PAID VISITS TO THE PORT. IN 1972, MARSHAL GRECHKO VISITED SOMALIA FOR THE SIGNING OF A SOVIET-SOMALI AGREEMENT, AND THIS WAS SOON FOLLOWED BY AN INCREASE IN SOVIET USE OF FACILITIES AT BERBERA, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SITE AND THE ARRIVAL OF A BARRACKS AND REPAIR SHIP WHICH HAS REMAINED AS A PERMANENT FEATURE EVER SINCE. IN LATE 1973, THE USSR BEGAN INITIAL CONSTRUCTION OF WHAT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITY AT BERBERA, SUGGESTING THAT THE SOVIETS HAD PLANS FOR SUCH A FACILITY EVEN BEFORE THE EVENTS OF THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A MORE FREQUENT US PRESENCE.

IN JULY OF LAST YEAR, THE USSR SIGNED A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH SOMALIA, SIMILAR TO THOSE SIGNED WITH EGYPT, IRAQ AND INDIA. SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, APPROXIMATELY COINCIDENT WITH A VISIT BY THE COMMANDER OF THE SOVIET NAVY, ADMIRAL GORSHKOV, WE NOTED THE BEGINNING OF A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA, INCLUDING EXPANSION OF THE POL STORAGE, CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL HOUSING ASHORE, AND THE BEGINNING OF A VERY LONG AIRSTRIP. THE EMERGING CONFIGURATION OF A MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITY BECAME APPARENT. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE USSR IS IN THE

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PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A SIGNIFICANT NEW FACILITY
CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THEIR NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITIES
IN THE NORTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN.

THE USSR HAS ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN
SOUTH YEMEN IN MANAGING THE FORMER BRITISH PORT OF ADEN,
WHICH WAS THE FOURTH LARGEST BUNKERING PORT IN THE WORLD
WHEN THE SUEZ CANAL WAS IN OPERATION. THIS PORT LIES
DIRECTLY ACROSS THE GULF OF ADEN FROM BERBERA AND
COMMANDS THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE RED
SEA. IN ADDITION, THE USSR IS ASSISTING IRAQ IN THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT, UMM QASR, AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF
THE PERSIAN GULF. HOWEVER, SOVIET DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF
THESE TWO FACILITIES HAS BEEN MUCH MORE MODEST THAN AT

BERBERA.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS BECOME A MAJOR SEA POWER IN THE LAST
DECADE. THE FIRST DISPLAY OF SOVIET GLOBAL NAVAL POWER --
THE SO-CALLED OKEAN EXERCISE IN 1970 -- WAS INTENDED TO
DEMONSTRATE SOVIET CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT COORDINATED
NAVAL OPERATIONS IN EVERY OCEAN OF THE WORLD. A SIMILAR
WORLDWIDE EXERCISE WAS HELD IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR.
FOR THIS EVENT, THE NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN WAS APPROXIMATELY DOUBLED. ACTIVITY WAS CENTERED
IN THE NORTHERN ARABIAN SEA, AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE
TANKER LANES FROM THE PERSIAN GULF. THE EXERCISE WAS
SUPPORTED BY LONG RANGE AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM THE
SOVIET UNION, AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BY MARITIME PATROL
AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM AIRFIELDS IN SOMALIA.

IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT THE ENTIRE SOVIET BUILDUP
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WHICH NOW AVERAGES APPROXIMATELY
19 SHIPS ON A REGULAR BASIS, HAS OCCURRED DURING THE
PERIOD SINCE THE SUEZ CANAL CLOSED IN 1967. WE ANTICIPATE
THAT, WITH THE CANAL ONCE AGAIN OPEN AS OF LAST WEEK, WE
WILL SEE AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIP
TRAFFIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY WITH SOUTH ASIA. WE
WILL BE WATCHING VERY CAREFULLY FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE
PATTERN OF THEIR NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS. AS YOU KNOW, THE
OPENING OF THE CANAL REDUCES THE DISTANCE FROM THE
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BLACK SEA TO THE ARABIAN SEA FROM QUINTEEN MILES TO ONLY
2,500 MILES -- A DIFFERENCE IN SAILING TIME OF 24 DAYS.
IT ALSO REOPENS TO THE USSR A WARM WATER TRANSIT ROUTE
FROM EUROPEAN RUSSIA TO THE SOVIET FAR EAST, WHICH
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE IMPORTANT FOR THE TRANSFER OF NAVAL

UNITS BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FLEETS. WHETHER THIS WILL MEAN AN INCREASE IN SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE ON A REGULAR BASIS IS NOT CERTAIN, BUT IT WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE SOVIET FLEXIBILITY IN SUPPORTING OR REINFORCING ITS UNITS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THE LEVEL OF U.S. PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS BEEN PRUDENT. WE HAVE HAD A SMALL PERMANENT PRESENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND RED SEA SINCE 1949, CONSISTING OF THE COMMAND SHIP AND TWO DESTROYERS OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE CENTERED IN BAHRAIN. IN ADDITION, SINCE OCTOBER 1973, WE HAVE CONDUCTED MORE FREQUENT AND MORE REGULAR DEPLOYMENTS TO THE AREA FROM OUR PACIFIC FLEET. OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN SUCH DEPLOYMENTS, INCLUDING FIVE VISITS BY CARRIER TASK GROUPS AND TWO VISITS BY MAJOR SURFACE COMBATANTS. OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE HAD AN AUGMENTED PRESENCE IN THE AREA APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE TIME.

ALTHOUGH WE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER TO SEE NO SOVIET BUILDUP OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN THIS REGION, IT APPEARS THAT THE USSR INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A BUILDUP. SINCE AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY BALANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PRESERVATION OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THIS AREA OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, WE FEEL WE SHOULD HAVE LOGISTICAL FACILITIES WHICH WILL PERMIT AS TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE PRESENCE. IN A PERIOD OF HISTORICAL TRANSITION TOWARD A NEW SET OF POWER RELATIONSHIPS, ONLY THE UNITED STATES AMONG THE WESTERN NATIONS HAS THE STATURE TO INSURE THAT THAT BALANCE IS MAINTAINED.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT COMPLETES MY REMARKS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT THE PORT OF BERBERA, I HAVE HERE SOME PHOTOS AND CHARTS WHICH SHOULD ILLUSTRATE FOR YOU THE SOURCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR CONCERN. UNQUOTE.

SECDEF THEN PROCEEDED TO SHOW THE SASC "RECENT HIGH ALTITUDE RECONAISSANCE" PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE BERBERA PORT FACILITY. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

BERBERA PORT FACILITY

--GENERAL: BERBERA PORT HAS A SMALL NATURAL HARBOR ABOUT TWO MILES LONG AND ONE MILE WIDE. DEPTHS RANGE FROM 30 TO 60 FEET. APPROACHES FROM THE OPEN SEA ARE DEEP AND CLEAR WITH TIDE CHANGES OF APPROXIMATELY TWO FEET. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PORT COMMENCED UNDER A 1962 ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE PROJECT, PROVIDING

BERTHING FACILITIES FOR SHIPS OF 30 FOOT DRAFTS, WAS COMPLETED IN JANUARY 1969. THE PORT, FUNCTIONING COMMERCIALY AS AN EXPORTER OF LIVESTOCK AND FOR DISCHARGING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY, IS NOW HEAVILY USED TO SUPPORT SOVIET NAVAL UNITS OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL.

--FACILITIES CONSIST OF A QUAY WITH 1400 FEET ALONGSIDE BERTHING SPACE AND ALONGSIDE DEPTH OF 30 FEET. THE BERTHING QUAY IS CONNECTED TO THE SHORE BY CAUSWAYS. THERE ARE 40 BUILDINGS IN THE AREA INCLUDING 18 STORAGE STRUCTURES WITH A CAPACITY OF 165,000 SQUARE FEET. THE MILITARY PORT CAPACITY IS ESTIMATED TO BE 2300 SHORT TONS PER DAY.

--PHOTOGRAPHY OF APRIL 1975 REVEALED A VYN CLASS SOVIET BARRACKS SHIP WHICH HAS BEEN LOCATED IN THE PORT SINCE LATE 1972. SHE IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING HOUSING FOR AT LEAST 200 TO 300 PERSONS AND HAS A MACHINE SHOP TO PERFORM MINOR REPAIRS FOR TRANSIENT SOVIET SHIPS. ALSO BERTHED AT THE QUAY IS AN AMUR CLASS SUBMARINE REPAIR SHIP AND A SOVIET FREIGHTER. AT THE TIME OF THIS PHOTOGRAPHY SOVIET COMBATANTS NORMALLY STATIONED AT THIS PORT WERE AT SEU PARTICIPATING IN THE NAVAL EXERCISE OKEAN 75.

HOUSING FACILITIES

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--GENERAL: THIS PHOTOGRAPH REVEALS A FENCED BARRACKS AREA THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE. THE ADJACENT TRAILER CAMP CAN ACCOMMODATE AN ADDITIONAL 200 PEOPLE.

--FACILITIES INCLUDE 16 TWO-STORY BARRACKS BUILDINGS, 20 TRAILERS, AND TWO SUPPORT TYPE BUILDINGS. TEN OF THE BARRACKS WERE COMPLETED PRIOR TO MARCH 1973. SINCE THEN, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIX MORE BARRACKS AND THE ADDITION OF

THE 20 HOUSE TRAILERS HAS EXPANDED THE HOUSING CAPACITY OF THE FACILITY TO 1,000 - 1,200 PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET BARRACKS COMPOUND PROBABLY HOUSES SOME MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADVISORS, AND TECHNICIANS, MOST ARE BELIEVED TO BE NAVAL PERSONNEL AND TECHNICAL/CONSTRUCTION WORKERS INVOLVED WITH THE NEARBY COMMUNICATIONS STATION, MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY, AND A NEW AIRFIELD. THE SOVIETS HAVE A TOTAL ESTIMATED HOUSING CAPACITY FOR 1,200 TO 1,500 PERSONNEL IN BERBERAN SOMALIA, INCLUDING THE BARRACKS SHIP LOCATED IN THE NEARBY HARBOR.

--THE INSET DEPICTS A KNOWN SOVIET HOUSING TRAILER SIMILAR TO THOSE SEEN HERE.

POL STORAGE FACILITY

--THE POL STORAGE FACILITY CONSISTS OF AN EXISTING TANK FARM AND A NEW TANK FARM UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THE EXISTING TANK FARM WAS ESTABLISHED BY DUTCH SHELL AND HAS A CAPACITY OF 38,800 BARRELS. THE NEW STORAGE TANKS WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 131,200 BARRELS. TOTAL CAPACITY WOULD EQUATE TO 170,000 BARRELS. THE COMPLEX IS CONNECTED BY PIPELINE WITH THE HARBOR AREA AND TO OFF-SHORE BUOYS FOR FUEL TRANSFER.

--THE NINE NEW STORAGE TANKS ARE OF SOVIET DESIGN AND HAVE BEEN SEEN IN NORTH VIETNAM, CUBA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE TECHNIQUE OF CONSTRUCTION ENTAILS A SPOOL OF ROLLED STRIP STEEL WHICH IS UNFOLDED AT THE SITE.

--THE BULK OF THE INCREASED CAPABILITY WILL PROBABLY BE USED FOR BUNKERING SOVIET SHIPS.
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LONG RANGE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY

--THEN SOVIETS HAVE ESTABLISHED A HIGH FREQUENCY SHORE-BASED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY JUST OUTSIDE BERBERA. THE

RECEIVER SITE IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE SOUTH OF BERBERA. THE TRANSMITTER SITE IS THREE MILES NORTHEAST OF THE RECEIVER SITE. BOTH HAVE RHOMBIC ANTENNAS USED FOR LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATIONS. THEY ARE ORIENTED NORTH AND WEST. OTHER ANTENNAS AT THE SITE ARE PROBABLY USED FOR SHORTER RANGE COMMUNICATIONS WITH SHIPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

--ALSO IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE FENCED SITES ARE CONTROL FACILITIES AND, AT THE RECEIVER SITE, A SEPARATE FENCED AREA OF AIR CONDITIONED BUILDINGS PROBABLY FOR SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT.

NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION

--THE SOVIETS ARE CONSTRUCTING A NEW AIRFIELD APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILES SOUTHWEST OF BERBERA. THIS PHOTOGRAPHY REVEALS TWO PARALLEL CLEARINGS 16-17,000 FEET LONG. BOTH ARE BEING GRADED FOR A 13-15,000 FOOT RUNWAY AND PARALLEL TAXIWAY. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS, THE FIELD COULD BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN ONE TO TWO YEARS DEPENDING ON THE PACE OF CONSTRUCTION. WHEN COMPLETED, THE FIELD SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ANY SIZE SOVIET AIRCRAFT THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS.

--THE AIRFIELD, LIKE THE OTHER BERBERA MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE USED FOR SOVIET MILITARY

PURPOSES. CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRFIELD WITHIN TWO NAUTICAL MILES OF THE MISSILE STORAGE SITE AND FOUR NAUTICAL MILES OF BERBERA PORT WOULD PROVIDE A CONVENIENT AERIAL RESUPPLY CAPABILITY FOR SHIPS ASSIGNED TO THE SOVIET

INDIAN OCEAN SQUADRON.

--THIS ENLARGEMENT OF THE AIRFIELD SHOWS INITIAL UPGRADING
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AND PLACEMENT OF CRUSHED ROCKS AS A BASE FOR THE MAIN
RUNWAY.

--THE DARK AREA IS OIL BEING PLACED AS A COAGULANT ON THE
GRADED SAND SURFACE FOR THE CRUSHED STONE.

--STONE IS BEING DRAWN FROM A NEWLY ESTABLISHED QUARRY ONE
MILE SOUTHEAST OF THE AIRFIELD (SEE INSET).

MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY

--A MISSILE HANDLING AND STORAGE FACILITY IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BERBERA, SOMALIA. THE FACILITY IS 80 PERCENT COMPLETE WITH THREE DISTINCT, SEPARATELY SECURED AREAS. THESE ARE:

----A CHECKOUT/ASSEMBLY AND STORAGE AREA CONSISTING OF A HIGH-BAY CHECKOUT.ASSEMBLY BUILDING, TWO DRIVE-IN STORAGE BUNKERS, A LARGE CONCRETE APRON, AND ONE SUPPORT BUILDING.

----A MISSILE HANDLING AND FUELING AREA CONSISTING OF EIGHT BUILDINGS, AND A CIRCULAR EXCAVATION.

----A COMPONENT STORAGE AREA WITH THREE STORAGE BUNKERS, ONE DRIVE-THRU COMPONENT STORAGE BUNKER, A CIRCULAR EXCAVATION, AND A SUPPORT BUILDING.

--THE FACILITY ITSELF IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES EAST OF THE NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND TWO MILES SOUTHWEST OF BERBERA PORT. WHEN COMPLETED, THIS FACILITY COULD GIVE THE SOVIETS A RELOAD CAPABILITY FOR MISSILE-EQUIPPED SHIPS, SUBMARINES, AND AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN AND OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. KISSINGER
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